

ANDOVER SCHOOL DISTRICT

35 SCHOOL ROAD
ANDOVER, CONN. 06232
Tel. (860) 742-7339
Fax (860) 742-8288

Mr. Andrew Maneggia
Superintendent

Dr. H. David Griffin
Principal/Director of Curriculum

Dr. Michelle S. Zeuschner
*Assistant Principal/
Director of Special Ed.*

TO: MEMBERS OF THE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

FROM: ANDREW MANEGGIA, SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS
ANDOVER SCHOOL DISTRICT

DATE: FEBRUARY 25, 2011

RE: TESTIMONY – H.B. No. 6422 AN ACT CONCERNING TRANSPORTATION
AND TUITION COSTS OF STUDENTS WHOSE HEALTH CONDITION
REQUIRES THEM TO ATTEND A DIFFERENT SCHOOL THAN THAT
WHICH WOULD NORMALLY BE ASSIGNED FOR SUCH STUDENT

This testimony is not intended to dispute the responsibility of a Board of Education to provide a free and appropriate educational program for all students in a healthy and safe school environment.

However, even though H.B. 6422 is well-intended, it does not provide for any kind of a check and balance system for either party. The proposed bill merely requires a doctor's note stating that the health concerns of the student are caused by continued attendance at a school.

- On what basis will the doctor make this decision?
- If the decision is based upon environmental issues, what criteria will the doctor use for his/her decision?
- How will the school be tested?
- What if the continual attendance at that school is not the real cause but the parent believes that it is – how will the doctor respond? Will he/she write the note?

The present wording places the Board of Education in an indefensible position since there is no hearing or appeal process.

Therefore, I urge the Committee not to endorse H.B. 6422 for the reasons mentioned and because of the potential financial burden associated with it, especially if a district has only one school. With all the A.D.A., Special Education, and 504 guidelines, is this legislation really needed?